LA26 and LA27

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

53, LONG ACRE

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LA26 and LA27

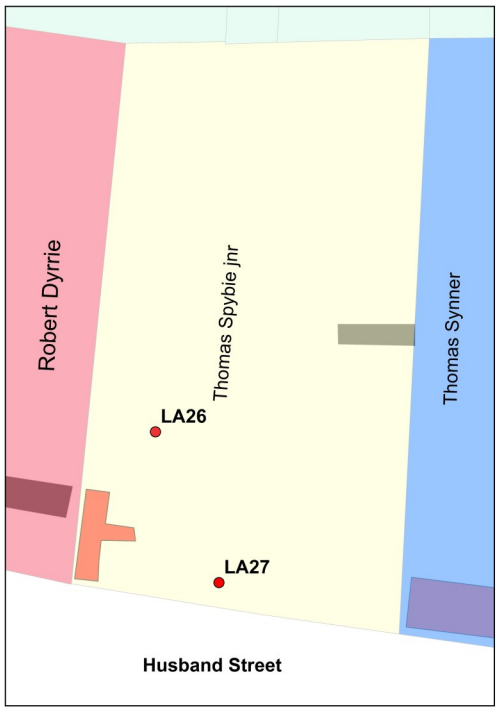
53, LONG ACRE

SITE HISTORY

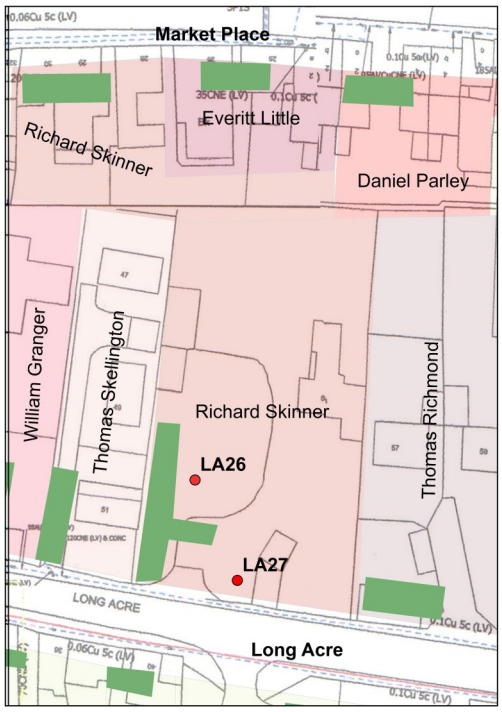
Number 53 Long Acre occupies a large site on the northern side of Long Acre. In its time it has been a depot for steam traction engines and threshing machines as well as the Timber Yard for the Chesterfield Estate. The house is a converted barn, probably the second oldest barn conversion in Bingham after Bradshaw's Cottages. Although the boundary wall with Long Acre seems old, it is actually fairly recent and is built with reclaimed Victorian bricks.

1586

From the 14th century most of Bingham was owned by a single lord of the manor. In 1586 this was Bryan Stapleton, for whom the survey on which we base our map was drawn up. Comparison of the conjectural map for 1586 with the modern OS map suggests the boundaries have not changed in the interval. In 1586 the plot was tenanted by Thomas Spybie. This was his homestead. He held around 48 acres of strips (each about a quarter of an acre) spread around the four open fields of the parish. His holding was described as "A messuage and 5 bovates of land, yard, barn and croft".



Conjectural map for 1586. Husband Street is the modern Long Acre.

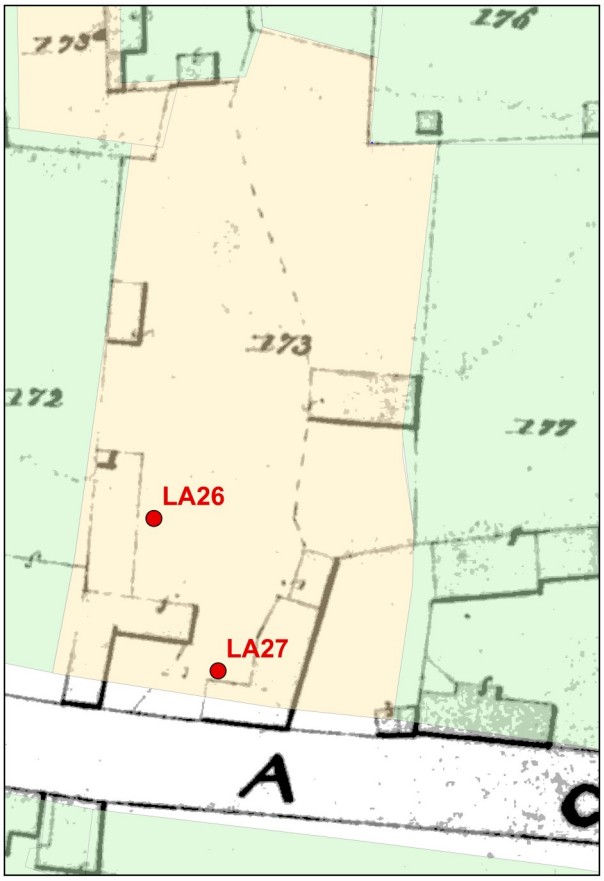


The map for 1776 overlying the modern map. (By courtesy of Western Power)

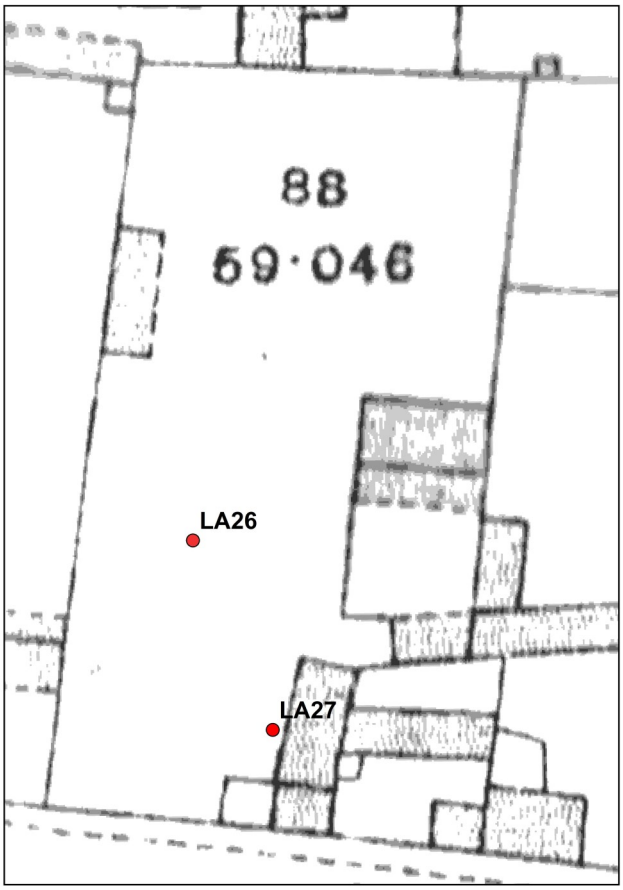
At that time Long Acre was called Husband Street, the street of the farmers. Most of the tenant farmers had their homesteads along Husband Street. Cottagers (who were not farmers and generally had no extra land) were mostly in East Street and Newgate Street.

1776

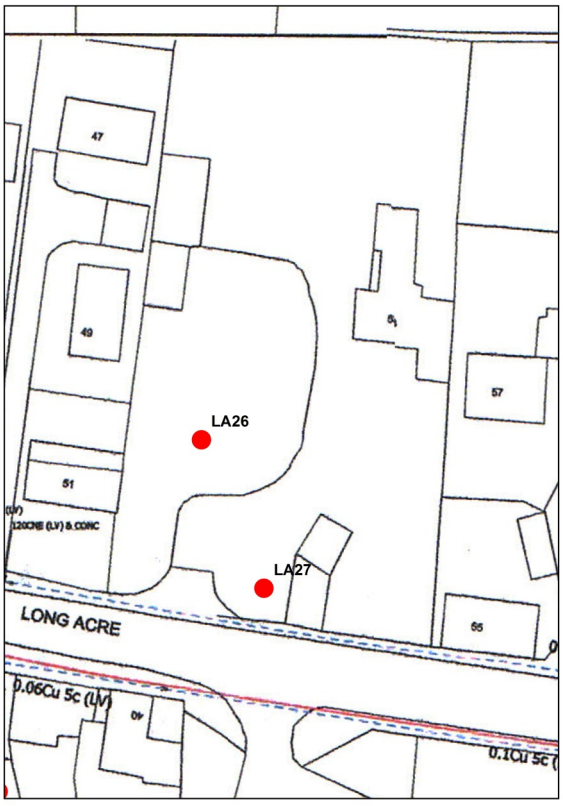
In the early 1590s the Stapleton estate was sold to the Stanhope family who later became the Earls of Chesterfield. In 1776 an estate survey was conducted for the coming of age of the then earl. This was published as book, one page showing a list of plots held by a particular tenant, the opposite page showing plans of these in their geographical relationships but with no overall map. We



Tithe map for 1841



OS map for 1910



The modern map, by courtesy of Western Power.

pieced these together to make a map of Bingham village and parish.

Richard Skinner now held the plot together with an adjacent plot to the north which connected through to the Market Place. His farmhouse is thought to have been alongside the western boundary, close to pit LA26. He held a total of 122 acres of farmland and moorland grazing. Although by now Bingham land had been enclosed, an individual's holdings were still scattered around the parish. He was one of the more substantial farmers in Bingham. He was described in a newspaper report as a "wealthy farmer of Bingham" when he married Miss Nancy Dikes of Bottesford in 1778.

1841

The first full large scale map of Bingham was produced for the tithe apportionment exercise which saw the payment of tithes changed from payment in kind to payment in cash. The apportionment tables listed every plot on the map and showed the owner (in the majority of cases the Earl of Chesterfield), the primary occupier, area and the rate to be paid. The plot was tenanted by George Skinner, presumably son or

grandson of Richard from 1776. The plot also included the next door plot, now the Nursery School. The connection to the Market Place plot is also evident.

George was noted in the census as farming around 100 acres until he disappeared from the census returns after 1861. His holding seems then to have passed to John Strong, who farmed 120 acres from here. The Strongs owned and operated a threshing machine(s) and kept it/them on this site. John W Strong, traction engine driver, lived on Long Acre in 1901; the others in the family lived in Fairfield Street in 1891 and 1901.

1883/1910

The connection with Market Place was lost between 1841 and 1883, after which there has been no change to boundaries.

LA26

53, LONG ACRE

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470532.339852
Height OD	23m (from map)
Address	53, long Acre, Mr K Hammond
Dig dates	4th – 6th July 2016
Pit site	Lawn near front of very large garden on the western side of the house.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, N-S orientated, 10 cm spits, everything sieved. 50% sondage dug on east side of pit from 60 cm, but increased to 75%. Irregular shape due to the bricks in the wall to the bottom.

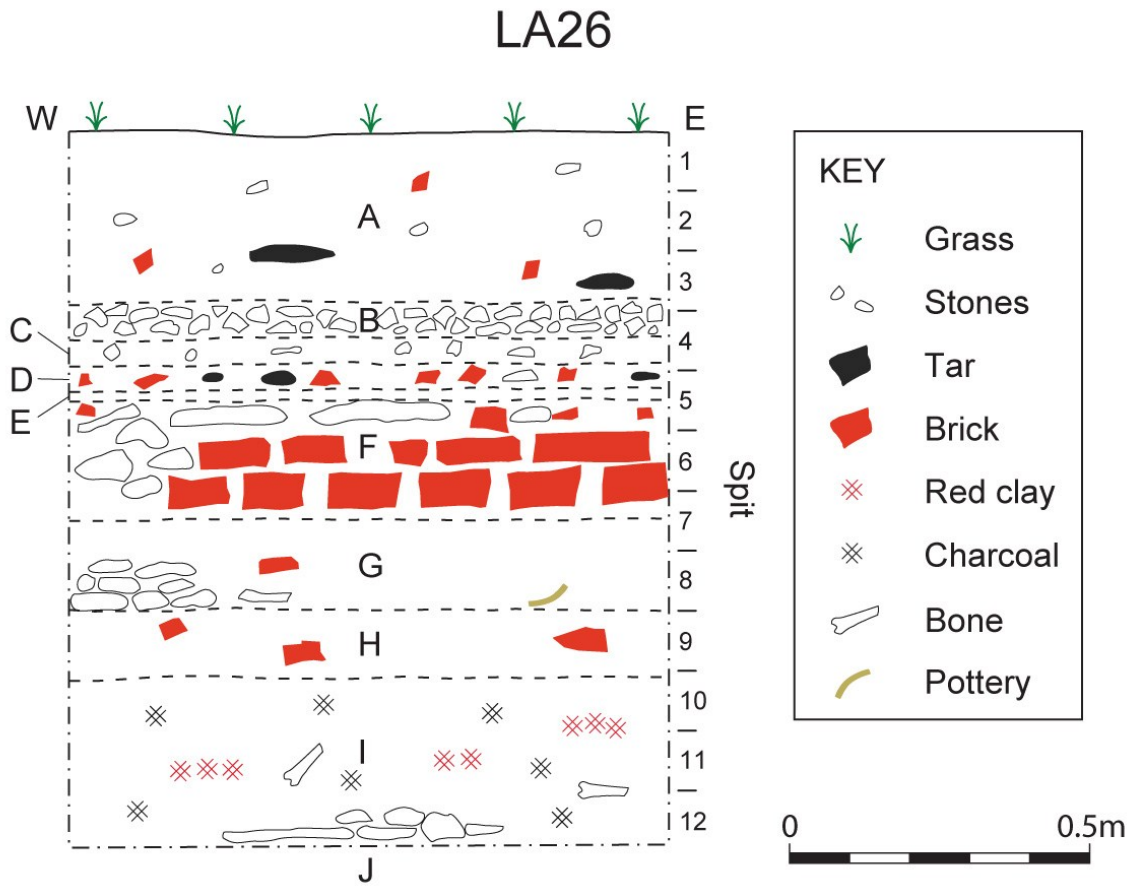
LA26

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

A few centimetres of thin, barren dark brown topsoil under the turf is the upper part of a soil layer, 28 cm thick, containing stones, brick pieces and lumps and discoid shaped pieces of tar. The soil rests on a layer of closely packed stones set in tar, which is the upper one of possibly several man-made surfaces, all very hard and compacted and present down to 65 cm.

Underneath the stones with tar are two layers of clay with tar-coated pebbles, brick pieces, coal and slag. These layers are extremely hard packed and difficult to dig. Underneath is a thin layer of white-grey ash on the east side of the pit.



A	Dark brown stony soil; pebbles up to 3 cm, rounded. 1-2 cm brick pieces. Discoid pieces of black, shiny tar to 16cm.
B	Black layer of stones set in tar. Very hard.
C	Orange sandy clay with tar-coated pebbles.
D	Very hard-packed clay with brick pieces, coal, cinder.
E	White-grey ash layer, 2 cm thick. On east side of the pit only.
F	Bricks. Most of them whole and laid flat and close together. Some rotted mortar, coal and asphalt. On west side of pit mostly closely packed stones on asphalt.
G	Mid brown sandy soil with pot at the base.
H	Red-brown clay with brick pieces; 2 ¼ inch thick. Base is uneven
I	Grey clay with lots of angular pieces charcoal, lenses of orange-brown clay, big bones. Pile of stones at the bottom of I; one measures 26 x 14 cm; skerry, very hard fine quartz sandstone, medium sandstone, red sandstone i.e. not all local. Brick piece2 3/8th inch thick.
J	Basal, red-brown mudstone with pale grey-green patches and mottles. Gradational upwards into I, probably the weathered top.

The test pit at 20m cm depth

The test pit at 30 cm depth

The eastern wall

The ash overlies a complex layer, some 20 cm thick that may be a single, well-made surface or a composite of three surfaces. The upper part is a mix of large, flat-lying slabs of stone, closely fitted together with a matrix of clay and ashy sand. The stones are Hollygate sandstone and Carboniferous limestone with brick pieces, glassy ballast, clinker and asphalt. This layer is less than 10 cm thick. Beneath it are two layers of mostly whole bricks, carefully laid flat and one set resting directly one on the other. In the upper layer there are 3-inch Victorian bricks with some rotted concrete, wood, mortar and white plaster. The lower layer contains some 2-inch bricks among the thicker ones. In the north-west corner the layers of brick pass into a pile of jumbled stones, brick pieces and tile with some asphalt. The whole of this 20 cm-thick sequence is hard packed.

Mr Hammond explained that this part of the garden was where the threshing machines and steam engines were parked when it was part of a working farm, which would explain the robust nature of the surfaces and the compaction of the material between them. The topsoil itself has an irregular topography, explained by the fact that after the conversion of the area into a garden it was simply grassed over without any landscaping being done.

The natural soil profile begins at around 70 cm, but it is much disturbed. Brick pieces are found at all levels down to 90 cm; most either 2 ¼ inches or 2 3/8 inches thick. Charcoal, stones, including red sandstone, which is not local, bones and lenses of orange-brown clay occur throughout.

The basal clay is the weathered top of the Triassic Mercia Mudstone. A pile of stones, mostly skerry, lying on the upper surface is fairly typical in this area.

Finds

Building materials including brick, roof tile, white glazed ceramic tile, slate and plaster was recovered in the top 90 cm. One brick has an imprint PHORPRES. This is a pun on the words ‘four press’. The early brick presses only applied two presses to the powdered clay in the brick moulds. The trade name Phorpres came about because Fletton Bricks made in Bedfordshire are pressed twice in each direction; i.e. four times. These bricks were made by the London Brick Company after 1905.

The pit at a depth of 89 cm

North face at full depth.

There is a lot of **clinker or slag** in the top 30 cm; one piece was recovered from immediately beneath the brick layers. Most of the **metallic** objects are nails, but there are in addition washers, screws, wire, metal discs, blades, steel rods, part of a gate catch, lead piping and tacks. These were found both above and below the layers of man-made surfaces.

Among the **miscellaneous** objects are pieces of leather found in the topsoil and small, stone spherical objects. At the level of the lower layer of bricks and below were found oyster shells, a bone domino piece, thimble, clay balls, slate pencils, a cartridge case, buttons and several pieces of wood. All the wood was from spit 6, the lower of the two brick levels.

63% of the **glass** retrieved was from bottles and 30% was window glass. The rest of the fragments were from tumblers, decorative vessels, a vase and glass stoppers. Some had reacted with the soil to give the fragment a patina, which was generally gold.

Among the bottle pieces 43% were green, 22% clear, while the rest were aqua, brown, blue-aqua and black. Some of the bottles were flat-sided and probably medicine bottles; others beer bottles and there were some large enough green pieces to be from wine bottles. Among the clear glass bottles two had embossed lettering, which dates them to late 19th C onwards. One clear bottle was from a vessel a little over one inch in diameter. The stoppers were aqua and likely to be from chemical or perfume bottles. More than half of the window glass was clear, modern 1/8th inch thick and several pieces were dimpled or ribbed such as would have been found in 20th C bathroom windows. Other window glass measured 1/16th and 1/32nd inch thick and it was among these thin fragments that the aqua and light green examples were found. One of these showed the markings around the edge that characterise window glass that had been fitted either using lead or into putty. Of the glass only the black wine bottle and thin window glass might be older than the 19th century.

Of the 32 pieces of **clay pipe** that were found all except one of them were from pipes made after the mid 18th C and most were 19th C. The one older stem was thick and had the characteristics of clay pipes made in the 17th and early 18th centuries. There were no whole bowls and only two bowl fragment were decorated. One of these was fluted with pairs of leaves along the seam and can be dated to 1820-1850. The second with a date range of 1760—1820 has a part of what looks like an armorial decoration. Clay pipe stems fragments were found at all depths to the base of the pit.

Animal bones, some of them clearly butchered were found at all depths.

The oldest pottery found in the pit is **medieval**; one sherd of Nottingham Coarse Pink/orange Ware was found in the topsoil. Three others were from 80 cm to the bottom of the pit at 120 cm. These includes two sherds of Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze (1220-1320) and a sherd of Late Medieval non-local fabric with a long range of 1320—1550.

There was rather more **post-medieval** pottery. Six sherds were collected from the topsoil, but there were 39 sherds below 60 cm. In the topsoil there were sherds of Coarse Black Ware, which has a date range of c1550 to 1800, early 18th C Mottled Ware and Sandy Coarse Earthenware. This last type is a late example of Midland Purple Ware, found throughout Bingham, but not well documented elsewhere. It has a possible date range of 1500 to 1650.

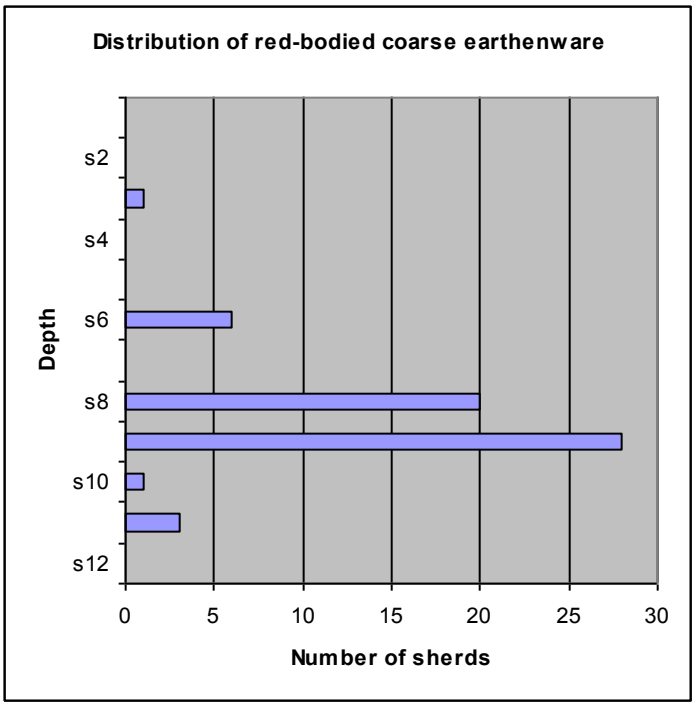
Overall the Coarse Black Ware makes up 45% of the number of sherds. It was plentiful among the stones and bricks just above and within the upper layer of bricks, where there were large body and rims pieces from chamber pots. It was red bodied with a poor glaze. This coarse utilitarian ware was likely to have been in use comparatively late in its date range. The same ware type was common below the layers of bricks right down to the bottom of the pit. Some of the pieces were large. The body was usually red-purple. The rim types and shape of some body sherds suggested that they were from jars.

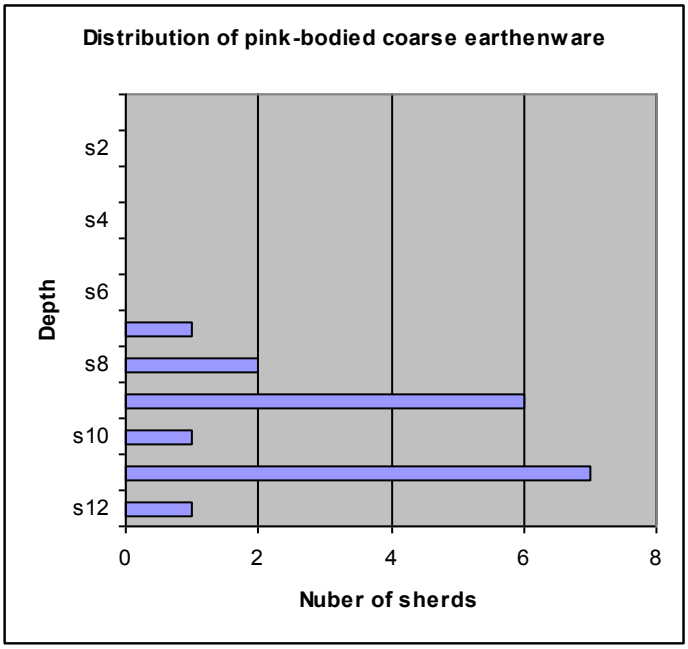
The only other types of post-medieval pottery were Mottled Ware, Slip-trailed Ware, Midland Black Ware, Midland Yellow Ware and there was one sherd of Slipware. Some of the Mottled Ware sherds were probably from tankards or mugs. This has a range of c1675 to late 1700s. The Slip-trailed Ware is the typical type for Bingham with yellow stripes on brown. The body is pink. This is believed to be the earliest of the slipware types made in England dating from the late 17th C. The one other slipware sherd had a brown glaze on red slip on a buff body and was not further identified. Midland Black Ware sherds were fairly small and variable, some with a shiny black glaze, others with a dull dark brown glaze. The body colour varied from red, red-brown to grey and it is clear that there were several vessel types present. This ware type was around from 1575 to 1725. Two sherds of Midland Yellow Ware were found. Each one was a thick piece with glaze on one side only. This was being made from 1575 to 1700.

The distribution of types of different ages throughout the pit was not orderly and stratigraphical. For example Mottled Ware was found at the bottom of the pit immediately above the basal clay, while the older Midland Yellow Ware was recovered from between 80 and 90 cm depth.

Among the collection of **coarse earthenware a**part from two tiny sherds of Vitrified Coarse Earthenware and Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware in the topsoil all the rest were below 50 cm depth. Uppermost of these in spit 6 are several sherds of red-bodied coarse earthenware with a dark brown-black glaze. One had a half-inch hole in it, probably a bung hole in a cistern.

All the rest were below the layers of bricks where red-bodied, pink-bodied, light-bodied coarse earthenware and one cream glazed type that is unique to this pit were found. In proportion the red-bodied coarse earthenware makes up 67% and pink-bodied 20%. The others are minor. There is an overlap in the distribution of the two main types with pink-bodied coarse earthenware rather more abundant in the lower spits than the red bodied. This accords with the conclusion from elsewhere that the pink-bodied varieties are older than the red-bodied coarse earthenware. Both of the main types generally have a dark brown-black glaze rather than a black one. The most commonly recognisable forms are pancheon and jar, the latter usually being a robust, large jar, probably for storage. The only measured diameter for a pancheon is 46 cm.





Most of the cream-brown coarse earthenware sherds are from the same vessel, identified by a similarity of the rim type. The glaze is cream-brown with brown blotches on a red slip on a red body. The glaze is on the inside only. One other sherd had a different type of rim. This particular type of glaze has never been seen either in the test pits of the field walking in Bingham.

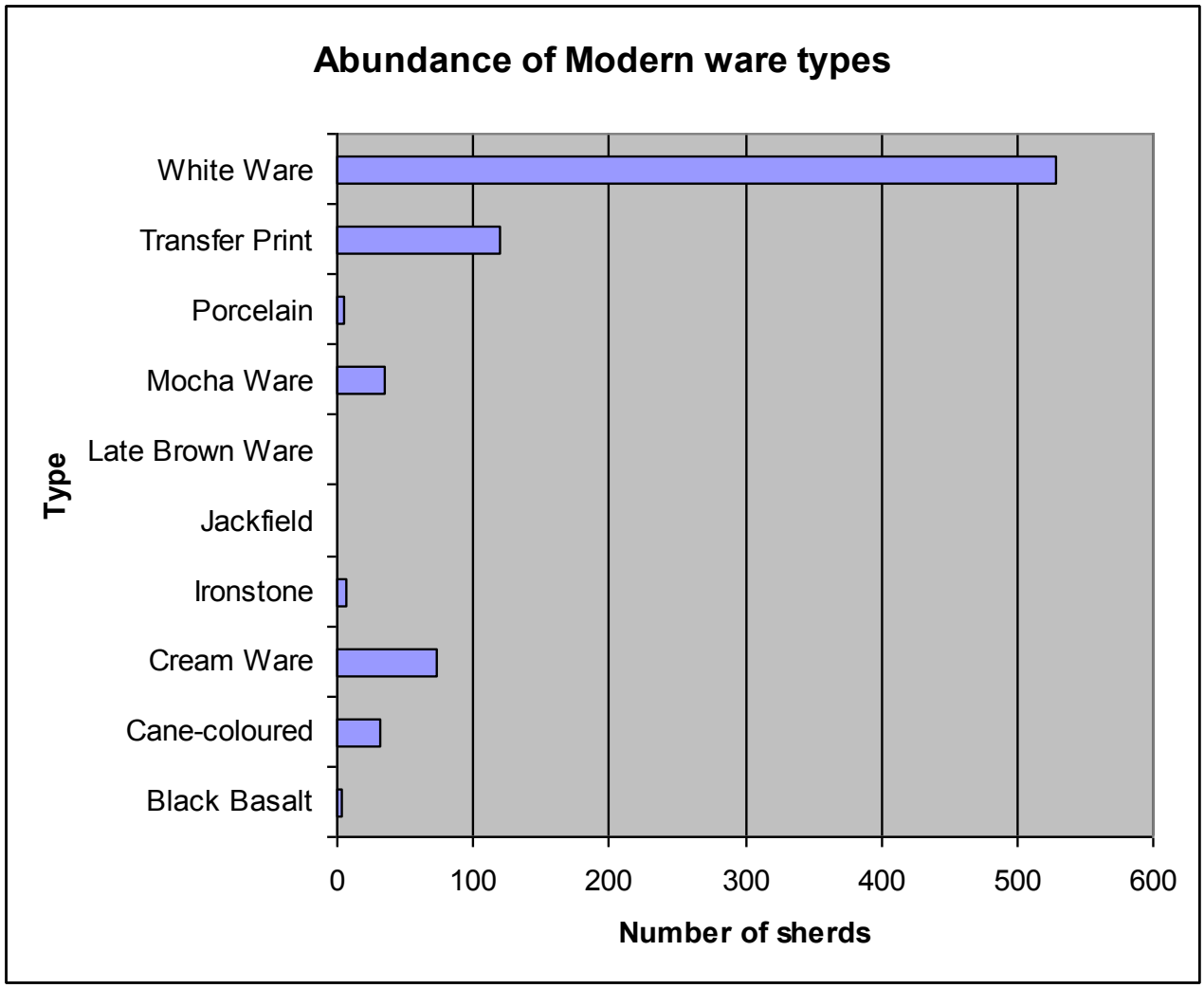
Only two small sherds of the light-bodied coarse earthenware were found. Little could be determined from them.

There was a large collection of **stoneware** in this pit, which yielded 95 sherds. They were present only below 40 cm, but there were only 11 finds above 70 cm. Of these one was an early 18th century piece with an orange fabric, another was hard to identify, while all the rest were 19th century. 88% of the finds were recovered from below 70 cm and most of these were 18th century pieces. However, there were 19th-20th century sherds among them down to 110 cm depth. The finds were mostly small and not easily attributable to a form. One sherd with small holes in it might have been from a colander, others were clearly jars, among which were large storage jars. There was a wide range of colours and decoration, but it is likely that many of the finds came from a small number of broken vessels.

Modern pottery was more abundant than any other kind. Five pieces of Unglazed Red Earthenware were recovered; four of them are typical of plant pot. The other one was a rim piece and was not easily classified.

Over 800 sherds of glazed modern pottery were recovered. Most of these were **White Ware** and 80% of them were white glazed with no decoration. The majority were plates with some bowls, mugs, jugs, cups and dishes. A small number of sherds have a crazed glaze on a thick body and are probably utility ware.

The most common decorated White Ware is blue edged. This is a very distinctive ware type, usually a plate, soup plate or dish. It is a **shell-edged earthenware** in which the blue decoration has been painted along the edge of a body of Pearl ware or white ware. Green was also used but none of this colour was found here. The rim is either scalloped or unscalloped, impressed or plain. The blue edge is from about 6mm to 10 mm wide, almost always with brush strokes down from the edge towards the centre of the vessel. Most of the bodies are White Ware, but a small number show the bluish tinge in the white that is characteristic of Pearl ware. This form of decoration was



being used from 1775 to the 1890s almost always on tableware. It was the least expensive English decorated table ware and was exported in huge quantities to America in the period between 1780 and 1860

The sherds found here resemble:

the neoclassically inspired symmetrical scalloped rim type made mostly between 1800 and 1830.

Embossed rims with a wide blue edge and a gold rim, made in the early 19th C

Unscalloped and not impressed blue edged made after 1860.

Many of the impressed pieces were too small be sure of whether it is scalloped or unscalloped. If they were unscalloped they were made between c1840 and the1860s.

A large number of pieces of green glazed earthenware on a white ware body were found at all depths, but which were clearly from a single object. The glaze was deep green, but there were black bands and bands of a dimpled decoration. Where it was possible to measure the vessel it was 14 cm in diameter and was either a jug or vase.

Small numbers of other types of decoration include plate rims with thin gold and red-brown bands near the edge; various glaze colours such as pale creamy blue-grey, off-white, green and blue; wide blue bands on white such as is common on milk jugs.

Next in abundance are Transfer-printed wares. This was first manufactured in the mid 18th C where the colour cobalt blue was used on a Cream Ware body. The peak production era, however, came in the 19th C, particularly between 1815 and 1835, when international trade resumed on a large scale after the end of the Napoleonic wars. Most of the sherds found had a White Ware body and are clearly 19th C, but Cream Ware was noted on some sherds suggesting that they may be older. Where they could be identified the forms were usually large and small plates, but a small number of bowls, a cup and a 40 cm diameter washbowl were identified. Most of the finds were blue and white and several showed the Willow pattern motif. Others were pale blue and a few very dark blue. It is likely that from the variety of shades and designs found the blue and white Transfer Printed wares cover much of the period from the late 18th C to 1950 that they were in production. These wares, however, were particularly hard wearing and lasted a long time. The gap between manufacture and breakage could be several decades. Other colours recorded are black, green, brown, grey and purple. These colours came into use after 1828. In order of appearance they are green (1828), black and light blue (1845) and brown (1852). Less common colours such as purple, sepia and yellow also appeared during this period.

One distinctive type of transfer printed ware is Flow Blue. The design was created by accident and was very popular between 1840 and 1860, but continued to be made until the end of the 19th C.

Next in abundance is Cream Ware. This was the main body from the mid 18th C until it was replaced by White Ware at around 1830. Many sherds are undecorated, but the Cream Ware body has been identified among the Transfer Printed and shell-edged ware types. Forms include large and small plates, dishes, bowls, jugs, mugs, cups, jars and one part of a lid to a small vessel. Most of the sherds were undecorated, but among those that were there are scalloped edges with embossed patterns lining the edge, thin blue or brown lines and bands parallel to the edge and several hand-painted patterns in different colours.

Cane-coloured wares and Mocha Ware together form the next most abundant type. Though there are many cane-coloured sherds that are clearly not Mocha Ware the same glaze and body appears in Mocha Ware and it is impossible to tell them apart when there are small pieces. Many of the cane-coloured sherds have a white internal glaze and are cane-coloured on the outside. Often they are coarse wares with an embossed outer design and look very like the mixing bowls that are still available. Other forms are jars, lidded jars and shallow bowls. One piece is thought to come from a plate. The Mocha Ware forms are mostly jugs and mugs. The most diagnostic pieces have a blue fern-like pattern on a white background, usually rimmed by a rectangular panel with thin blue or less commonly brown bands and a cane-coloured background. This ware type is typically 19th C.

A small number of other ware types were found. Ironstone with complex multicoloured patterns dates from 1815. It is likely that rather more of this was collected than identified. Several pieces of hand painted porcelain, possibly parts of bowls plates and cups originating in the Far East could be any age after the mid 18th C. There were several pieces of Wedgwood Black Basalt with a fine, incised decoration that may have come from the same vessel. This was made from 1760 to mid 19th C. Two pieces of black Jackfield Ware were found. This was made in Jackfield in Shropshire and was popular from about 1750. It faded from fashion and then reappeared so it has a long date range. Finally, there are two sherds of Late Brown ware that was being made from the mid 19th C to the present.

Interpretation

The house is a post-WWII barn conversion and there are several old farm buildings here, now used as workshops and for storage. An older house on this site was demolished. This history is reflect-

ed in the finds from the test pit. The top 28 cm is effectively landscaping, the soil having been spread onto the surfaces used as hard standing for farm machinery.

The basal clay is Triassic Mercia Mudstone. It has a pile of stones on it, which appears to be similar to those found on the top of the clay in other test pits, where it is a natural product of the weathering process. In this case, however, there is a lot of charcoal with it and some of the stones are not local. One piece of red sandstone is typical of the Triassic sandstone from near the Nottingham University and Radcliffe on Trent and occurs no closer than that to Bingham. The pile of stones is clearly artificial and the whole of the soil profile above it has been re-deposited here.

The succession in the pit is divided into two parts roughly at 70 cm depth. The upper part consists of several layers of hard standing. The lower part, beneath a well-made brick surface, has no identifiable surfaces in it. However, it is disturbed.

This lower section has three fairly distinct soil contexts, but the distribution of pottery types and ages shows no clear pattern that can be related to them. Fragments of one highly distinctive green glazed White Ware jug are found at all levels down to the top of the basal clay. The stoneware was also mixed, but the majority of the finds were 18th century below 70cm, while they were mainly 19th or 20th century above this level.

In the unit above 70 cm there are three main surfaces. The top one of stones and tar is described this way because it does not have the structure of asphalt. Though hard, it has a looser structure, almost as though it were an improvised attempt to make an asphalt surface. The latest date when this layer was laid cannot be estimated because the soil above it is almost certainly not in place. However, below it down to the top of the layers of brick there is modern 1/8th inch window glass, putting a date for this surface well into the 20th C.

There is a similar difficulty in trying to put a date to the two layers of brick. They occur one directly on top of the other and there is no certainty that they are two surfaces or a single robust one. There is a considerable diversity in the pottery and other material immediately above and mixed with the upper layer of bricks. Among the pottery is some Mocha Ware that was not made after the end of the 19th C. Among the coarse earthenware there is only Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware and all except one piece of post-medieval pottery at this level is Coarse Black Ware, possibly a chamber pot and with a long date range extending to about 1800. One piece of slipware was found, which is primarily an 18th C pottery type. Among the miscellaneous items are slate pencils, an oyster shell, a brass cartridge case, a thimble and a domino piece. Much of the glass is 1/8th inch clear, window glass, some of it dimpled bathroom glass. This is also found immediately under the lower of the two layers of brick and would suggest a 20th C date for both of them despite the age range of the pottery above it. The most likely explanation for the diverse range of pottery dates is that this soil, like that above the upper surface, was used as a foundation layer before setting the upper stones and tar layer and it is not in place.

In conclusion it cannot be said that any of the material excavated in this test pit is in its natural place. All of it has been transported to its current position. The oldest finds from the lower levels of the pit are the 13th century medieval pottery sherds. Two of these are pre-Black Death and one has a long post-Black Death date range. The natural profile where it came from clearly spans the period the medieval and post medieval periods including the deposition of Midland Yellow Ware, which is late 16th C to end 17th C. It cannot be said how the medieval finds fit into this profile, largely because of the long time interval between their dates and the next youngest.

LA27

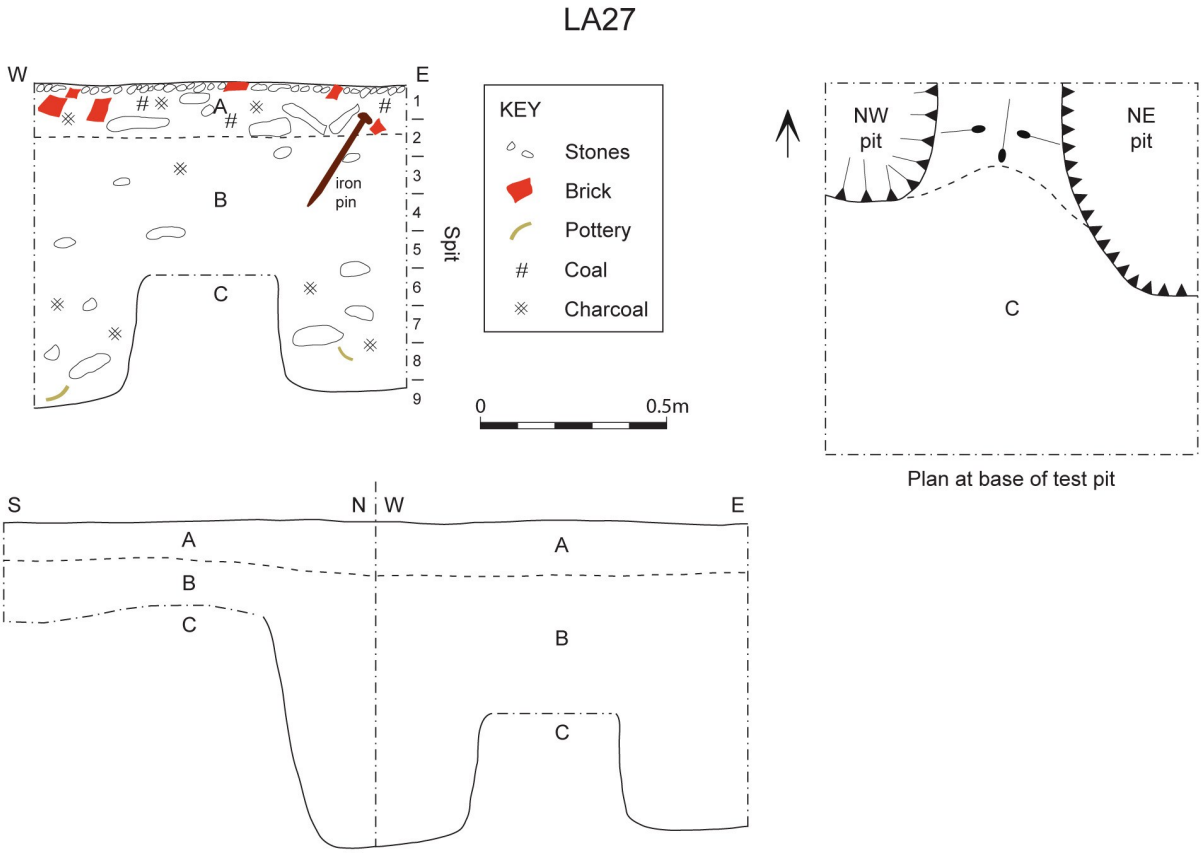
53, LONG ACRE

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470540.339833
Height OD	23m (from Map)
Address	53, long Acre, Mr K Hammond
Dig dates	4th July 2016
Pit site	Gravel area near the front wall to the east of the gate.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, N-S orientated, 10 cm spits, everything sieved. Two possible post holes found on NW and NE corners. Each dug out to bottom.

LA27

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS



A Dark brown soil with coal, charcoal, plenty of brick pieces and stones. Max size stone is 16 x 3 cm. One half brick recovered. At surface tightly packed small stones and rubble form a hard surface.

B Red-brown sandy clay with stones, 2-5%. Max size of stone 12 x 5 cm. Stones present at all depths. A 25 cm iron pin set at an angle in B with head in lower part of A. This fills the two (?) post holes

C Red-brown mudstone with 1 cm thick gypsum vein and grey-green reduction spots.

Description of pit

At the surface is a layer of hard compacted gravel. Stones to about 3 cm max. were probably dumped here and spread over the soil , eventually becoming a sound, hard-packed surface.

Beneath it is around 15cm of brown soil with plentiful bricks, large stones and other material. One brick has the mark Radcliffe Brick Co. Mr Hammond bought a load of these many years ago from a demolition site in Radcliffe.

Beneath this top context is red-brown sandy clay with stones, mostly skerry. A long metal spike lies across the boundary between these two contexts. It was probably hammered into place, because the sandy clay context does not change down to the bottom of the post holes.

The surface of the Mercia Mudstone is highly irregular plunging from 30 cm depth in the south face to 50 cm depth in the north face between two post holes. The bottom of these is at about 85

The finished pit, showing the two post holes.

Close up of part of the northern face

cm. The red-brown sandy clay with stones as present as fill in the post holes, where there is also a lot of charcoal and some pottery sherds. Grey-green reduction spots and a vein of gypsum in the basal clay are convincing evidence that it is Mercia Mudstone.

Finds

Most of the finds recovered were from the soil context above the top of the post holes. Only four finds were recovered from within the post holes.

The **building material** is mostly plaster and brick with a few pieces of floor tile, roof tile, slate a dark brown glazed ceramic tile and asbestos. One of the bricks is marked Radcliffe Brick Co. It was brought to the garden by Mr Hammond a few years ago. He bought a load from the site of a house in Radcliffe on Trent that was being demolished. However, Radcliffe bricks were not made in Radcliffe. Bricks with the name Radcliffe impressed in the frog were made in Amble in Northumberland.

Metallic objects were few, but include rusted nails, a piece of a cast iron drain pipe and a spike. However, there was a lot of clinker including a piece of burnt shale.

Only three pieces of **glass** were found. Two were black bottle glass, one having been fused in a fire. The third piece was 1/8th inch clear window glass.

There was one piece of **bone**.

All the **pottery** recovered was modern. Nearly all of it was White Ware body sherds, only one of which was attributable to a plate. One piece of white porcelain was part of a small, fine bowl. There were two blue and white Transfer Printed Ware. There was no stoneware.

The four items found in the **post holes** were Transfer Printed blue and white ware, a piece of clinker, a piece of plaster and a 2.25 inch thick brick piece. All were recovered from below 70 cm depth, i.e. near the bottom.

Interpretation

An iron pin about 25 cm long lies diagonally across the boundary between contexts A and B. How it came to be there is not clear, but the upper context contains a good deal more coarse material like stones that below it and it does seem like the top 15 cm may have been put in place during the

process of levelling the ground before laying the surface gravel. However, the thicker context B also is not in its original place which means that none of the natural soil profile has been preserved. A few metres to the east of this pit, in the garden behind a row of outbuildings, all the soil has been brought in and laid directly on the basal clay to make a garden. Mr Hammond explained that this was because over the years when this area was a cattle yard it had been cleared of manure, but always had involved the removal of some of the underlying soil. Ultimately, all the original soil had been stripped down to the basal clay. This pit, though not part of the same cattle yard was in the working area of the farmyard and would have been disturbed a great deal over the years, giving no useful historical information about the site prior to the 20th C, when the post holes were probably filled in.